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Message Text

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73
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /035 W
---------- 099744
O 072140Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9039
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0878

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, SEDU, TD, US
SUBJECT: UWI LOAN GUARANTY

REF: (A) STATE 71566, (B) STATE 82882, (C) PORT OF SPAIN 0870

1. EMBASSY WAS INFORMED BY MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PERMANENT SECRETARY SEIGNORET APRIL 7 THAT IT IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT GOTT WILL NOT RPT NOT BE READY TO SIGN UWI LOAN GUARANTY BY APRIL 9, BUT HE HOPED GOVT WOULD BE READY SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

2. IN PHONE CALL TO ARA/CAR EMBASSY RECEIVED CLARIFICATION OF DEPARTMENT'S DESIRE TO SIGN SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE THREE GOVERNMENTS. WE UNDERSTAND THIS IS IMPORTANT TO INSURE WE DO NOT ENTER INTO COMMITMENTS WITH SOME OF GOVERNMENTS AFFECTED BY THIS JOINT PROJECT ONLY TO FIND THAT ANOTHER GOVERNMENT DOES NOT AGREE.

3. ON BASIS OF ABOVE INFORMATION, DCM AGAIN CONTACTED SEIGNORET, WHO THEN DISCUSSED QUESTION MORE FRANKLY. SEIGNORET NOTED THE STRAINS AND DISAGREEMENTS WHICH HAVE EMANATED FROM THE RECENT CARICOM SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN PORT OF SPAIN (REF C), AT WHICH THE MAIN SUBJECT WAS THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES. UNDER THE CURRENT
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SITUATION, NOTHING CAN BE DECIDED ON THE UWI GUARANTY

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UNTIL FURTHER CABINET DISCUSSION TAKES PLACE. THE
WEEKLY CABINET MEETING IS THURSDAY. THERE IS THUS NO
POSSIBILITY OF OUR HAVING A DECISION BEFORE THE AFTER-
NOON OF APRIL 8 AND NO CERTAINTY OF HAVING IT THEN.
IF A FINAL DECISION IS TAKEN APRIL 8, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE
TO SCHEDULE SIGNING EARLY NEXT WEEK. IF NOT, NO SIGNING
OF THE GUARANTY COULD TAKE PLACE IN TRINIDAD UNTIL AFTER
EASTER FOR THE NEXT CABINET MEETING WOULD BE APRIL 15,
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY EASTER HOLIDAYS BEGINNING APRIL
16.

4. ALTHOUGH OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT THE GOTT WILL AGREE
TO SIGN THE UWI GUARANTY, THERE IS AT LEAST SOME ELEMENT
OF DOUBT IN THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE OF CONTROVERSY
EMANATING FROM THE CARICOM SUMMIT MEETING REGARDING
UWI. IF USG NEEDS TO BE ABSOLUTELY SURE, PERHAPS
IT WOULD BE PERTINENT TO GIVE CONSIDERATON TO POST-
PONING SCHEDULED SIGNINGS IN BRIDGETOWN AND KINGSTON.

5. IF THERE IS ANY POSTPONEMENT, HOWEVER, WE SHOULD BE
CAREFUL NOT TO HINT THAT THERE MIGHT BE ANY REASON
FOR TRINIDAD'S DELAY OTHER THAN PROCEDURAL MATTERS.
EVEN IF THERE IS MORE BENEATH THE SURFACE, BELIEVE
IT IS IMPORTANT FOR USG NOT TO CONTRIBUTE TO CURRENT
ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL RECRIMINATION AMONG CARICOM
PARTNERS. SINCE, IN FACT, PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS INDEED
MAY BE THE MOST BASIC PROBLEM, WE MUST NOT HINT AT
ANYTHING ELSE. IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY WITH WHICH THE
USG IS NOW SEEKING FORMAL GOTT CONCURRENCE IN THE UWI
LOAN, EMBASSY RECALLS THAT WE SOUGHT DEPARTMENT'S
PERMISSION AS EARLY AS AUGUST 1975 TO PROVIDE GOTT WITH
COPY OF UWI LOAN AGREEMENT AND ONLY AFTER REPEATED
REMINDER OF T&T GOVERNMENT'S RIGHT TO BE INFORMED WERE
WE PROVIDED A COPY OF THE AGREEMENT IN FEBRUARY 1976.
FAY

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